

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A method for producing purified steam using a falling film evaporation tube unit, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) introducing a feed stream of water to a falling film evaporation tube unit to produce a steam and a liquid;
- b) collecting the liquid below a lower end of the falling film evaporation tube unit to form a volume of liquid;
- c) circulating the steam upward in a spiraling rotational path;
- d) separating droplets from the steam to form a first reject stream;
- e) combining a portion of the volume of liquid with the feed stream to form a circulating liquid; and
- f) removing a second reject stream from the circulating liquid.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the droplets are separated by means of a temperature controlled surface.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein dissolved gases are continuously removed from the circulating liquid.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein a mass flow of the circulating liquid is at least twice ~~[[the]]~~a maximum product steam output.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A device for producing purified steam, the device comprised of:

a falling film evaporation tube unit;

a separating unit for separating a steam and a liquid, the separating unit comprised of:

a central downpipe for receiving an evaporation product from the falling film evaporation tube unit,

an inner shell,

an outer shell, wherein the inner shell provides for passage of a steam to the outer shell, and

a set of fins forming a spiral path surrounding the central downpipe;

a first exit tube connected to a bottom of a space between the inner shell and the outer shell, the first exit tube for flowing a reject stream from the space;

a second exit tube connected to a space inside the inner shell, the second exit tube fluidly connected to the liquid in the inner shell;

a recirculation tubing fluidly connecting the second exit tube to an inlet of the falling film evaporation tube unit; and

a tube fluidly connected to the recirculation tubing for removing a reject stream therefrom.

8. (previously presented) A device according to claim 7, comprising temperature control means fitted to the outer shell.

9. (previously presented) A device according to claim 7, comprising means for withdrawing a stream from the inlet end of the falling film evaporator.

10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 7, comprising a pump in the recirculation ~~circuit~~tubing having a mass flow capacity of at least twice ~~[[the]]~~a maximum product steam output of the device.